

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice claims 2, 24-26, 28, 33-39 and 44 and amend claims 1, 20, 27, 30, 31 and 40 as indicated in the following list of pending claims follows:

PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended): An elongated tissue removing device, comprising:
 - a. an elongate shaft which has proximal and distal shaft sections, a distal end and a tissue penetrating tip at the distal end configured to form a passageway to a location from which tissue is to be removed;
 - b. a tissue cutting element on the distal shaft section configured to separate a tissue mass having larger transverse dimensions that the passageway formed by the tissue penetrating tip; and which has
 - c. at least one tissue securing member on the distal shaft section for securing ~~[[a]]~~ the separated tissue mass ~~[[on]]~~ to the distal shaft section; and
 - ~~[[b]]~~ d. a tissue expander on the distal shaft section proximal to the at least one tissue securing member which has an expanded configuration with a transverse dimension greater than transverse dimensions of the separated tissue mass to facilitate removal of the secured separated tissue mass through the passageway.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously presented): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein the tissue expander comprises an inflatable balloon.

4. (Previously presented): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 3, wherein the inflatable balloon is attached to the distal shaft section proximal of the securing member.

5. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein said tissue expander comprises a plurality of inflatable balloons.

6. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 5, wherein at least one of said inflatable balloons is attached to said elongate shaft proximal of said region for securing a tissue mass.

7. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 6, wherein at least one of said plurality of inflatable balloons is attached to said elongate shaft distal of said region for securing a tissue mass.

8. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein said tissue expander comprises a plurality of expandable members.

9. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise longitudinally-oriented expandable members.

10. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise circumferentially-oriented expandable members.

11. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise spirally-oriented expandable members.

12. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise a mesh.

13. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members have at least one end connected to said elongated shaft.

14. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members have two ends, and each end is connected to said elongated shaft.

15. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, further comprising a rotatable shaft configured to effect expansion of said expandable members upon rotation of said shaft.

16. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise a plurality of expansion surfaces having inner and outer surfaces, said outer surfaces being configured to contact tissue, said inner surfaces being configured to slidably enclose at least a portion of said elongate shaft.

17. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 16, wherein said plurality of expansion surfaces comprises a pair of expansion surfaces.

18. (Previously presented): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein the tissue securing member includes an anchoring member.

19. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 18, wherein said anchoring member comprises an elongated anchor element configured to deploy into tissue.

20. (Currently Amended): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 19, wherein the elongated anchor element includes an electrosurgical element component.

21. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 18, wherein said anchoring member comprises a barb.

22. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein said region for securing a tissue mass comprises an aperture in fluid contact with a vacuum source.

23. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein said region for securing a tissue mass comprises an aperture in fluid contact with a reservoir configured to contain an adhesive fluid.

24-26. (Cancelled):

27. (Currently Amended): An assembly for removing a separated mass of tissue from within a patient's body through a passageway therein which has smaller transverse dimensions that the separated mass of tissue, comprising:

a tissue securing device having an elongate shaft with a region for securing a tissue mass on a distal shaft section; and

an anchoring member on the region of distal shaft section for securing the mass of tissue; and

a tissue dilation device for dilating [[a path]] the passageway within a patient's body to facilitate removal of the tissue mass through the passageway.

28. (Cancelled):

29. (Withdrawn): The tissue removing assembly of claim 27, wherein said tissue dilation device comprises an inflatable balloon.

30. (Currently Amended): The tissue removing assembly of claim 27, wherein said tissue securing device further comprises a cutting surface attached to said elongate shaft to separate the mass of tissue from supporting tissue.

31. (Currently Amended): A tissue removing kit, comprising:
a package;
a tissue securing device which is disposed in the package, which has an elongate shaft, which has a tissue cutting member on a distal section of the shaft for separating a tissue mass and which has at least one tissue securing member for securing a separated -tissue mass on a distal shaft section; and
a tissue dilation member which is disposed in the package and which is configured for dilating a path within a patient's body sufficiently to facilitate passage of the separated tissue mass.

32. (Withdrawn): The tissue removing kit of claim 31, wherein said tissue dilation device comprises an inflatable balloon.

33-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended): A biopsy device comprising:
a. an elongate shaft which has proximal and distal shaft sections; ~~and which~~
has
b. a cutting member on the distal shaft section configured to separate a tissue mass;
c. at least one tissue securing member for securing a separated tissue mass on ~~[[a]]~~ the distal shaft section; and
~~[[b.]] a cutting surface attached to the elongate shaft, and~~

[[c]]d. a tissue expander on the elongate shaft proximal to the at least one tissue securing member to facilitate removal of the secured ~~separate~~ separated tissue mass.

41. (Withdrawn): The biopsy device of claim 40, wherein said tissue expander comprises an inflatable balloon.

42. (Withdrawn): The biopsy device of claim 40, wherein said tissue expander comprises a plurality of inflatable balloons.

43. (Withdrawn): The biopsy device of claim 40, wherein said tissue expander comprises an expandable member.

44. (Cancelled):